

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service

Welcome

Preparation

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Amen

We gather in the dark

to welcome the light of the world

God has made His light shine in our hearts

the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of

Jesus Christ

So shine your light in our darkness, O God

may Christ our light always guide us.

Carol

Confession

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept

Lord of grace and truth,

we confess our unworthiness

to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call

to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Saviour

was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks

to go to Bethlehem.

Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star

to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

forgive and heal us.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw you to himself,

and cleanse you from all your sins

that we may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for Christmas night

Eternal God,

who made this most holy night

to shine with the brightness of your one true light:

bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,

to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

God's Word to Us

Reading

The Gospel Reading

Today Christ is born.

Alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come.

Alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth.

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers

Using the following response

Holy God

Hear our prayer

The Communion

The Peace

This holy night the angels sang

“Glory to God in the highest heaven

And on earth peace to all in whom he delights”.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

We exchange a sign of peace with those around us.

Carol

Thanksgiving over the bread and wine

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for the love of our fallen race humbled himself, and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Spirit, and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all
upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour
taught us, so we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us
Light in the midst of us
bring us to light and life**

The body and blood of Christ given for you.

Amen.

The bread and wine are distributed to the congregation.

Prayer after Communion

**God our Father, in this night
you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith
and fix our eyes on him**

until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star
rises in our hearts.

To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed his love upon you his children.

Amen

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
By whose overshadowing Mary
Became the God-bearer,
Give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

Glory, thanks and praise to God.